



English: Year 8 Autumn 1



Topic 1: Detective Fiction

Students will explore a range of extracts from detective fiction novels. Students will explore language, structure and how writer's create intrigue and suspense.

For further information, visit: BBC Bitesize and CGP Workbooks

Autumn 1 – 7 lessons per fortnight, plus an LRC lesson.

Key topics include:

- **Developing understanding of generic conventions.**
- **Describing a crime scene.**
- **Developing character through dialogue and action.**
- **Exploring plot and tension in detective fiction.**
- **Practising hooking the reader using a variety of techniques.**
- **Dropping clues and delaying reveals in narrative.**
- **Exploring a range of writers and texts that fall within the Detection Fiction genre.**

Assessment:

- 1.) **Interim Knowledge Check:** Completed in Week 3 on key terms and taught content.
- 2.) **End of Unit Assessment:** Opening of a detective story.

Specialist key terms for this unit:

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|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Detective | 15. Suspense |
| 2. Suspect | 16. Investigation |
| 3. Motive | 17. Witness |
| 4. Alibi | 18. Foreshadowing |
| 5. Clue | 19. Dramatic irony |
| 6. Red Herring | 20. Investigation |
| 7. Crime fiction | |
| 8. Victim | |
| 9. Evidence | |
| 10. Archetype | |
| 11. Trope | |
| 12. Convention | |
| 13. Deduction | |
| 14. Setting | |

Key Theorists/theories:

Eats, Shoots and Leaves: The Zero Tolerance Approach to Punctuation by Lynne Truss

Subject reading/further support:

[Mystery Writing Basics: Characters & Plot - WRITERS HELPING WRITERS®](#)

[How to Write a Great Mystery Novel \(squibler.io\)](#)

[KS2/3 VIDEO: How to plan a detective story with Robin Stevens \(5 mins\) - Puffin Schools](#)

Murder Most Unladylike by Robin Stevens – Did you enjoy this? It is a trilogy, read the next one called Death in the Spotlight.

Suggested enrichment/wider reading activities:

Research detective authors: E.g. Agatha Christie, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Raymond Chandler, PD James.

Read a detective short story or novel.

Watch and make notes on a detective television show.